

## CHILD SUPPORT REGISTRY and ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS

Dear Support Recipient:

Because your case involves child support, you are faced with many decisions – all of which will impact you and your child(ren) for many years. One such decision is how your child support account -- and enforcement if your ex-spouse does not pay -- will be handled. In this Court, you have the option of the Guardian Ad Litem/Friend of the Court Program (GAL/FOC) or the Registry Only State Disbursement Unit (SDU) as outlined below. Please choose one and inform your attorney so the appropriate language can be incorporated into your final orders.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:** Both the GAL/FOC and SDU will receive and disburse your payments either as a check, direct deposit to your checking account, or by enrolling you in a debit card program. Both charge a fee that is the responsibility of the person ordered to pay child support, both have live phone operators, and automated payment information systems. The (SDU) is administered by the Office of the Attorney General. The GAL/FOC is administered by a privately operated business located in McKinney.

These programs differ when it comes to enforcement.

**STATE DISBURSEMENT UNIT (SDU):** With the SDU, if a payment is not made, and you do not qualify for representation by the Attorney General's Office, you must be the movant, hire an attorney or private collection business to sue your ex-spouse and enforce your decree. You must appear in Court, testify against your ex-spouse, and pay court costs and attorney fees. More information about the Attorney General's Child Support Collection Office can be obtained from their website at <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs/index.shtml>

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM/ FRIEND OF THE COURT (GAL/FOC):** With the GAL/FOC Program, an appointed "Guardian ad Litem/Friend of the Court" automatically files a motion to enforce for you. You generally do not have to appear in Court or testify against your ex-spouse. You do not have to pay court costs or attorney fees. This service is free to you. More information can be obtained from their website at <http://www.texasguardianadlitem.com/>

	GAL/FOC Program	Registry Only SDU Program
Disburses Child Support by:		
Check	X	X
Auto credit to your bank account	X	X
Offers debit card w/Reward Points	X	
24/7 automated case information system	X	
Live operator hours	X	X
Automatically enforces your order at no cost to you	X	

Cause No. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Please check one of the following, sign the bottom and return this document to your attorney.**

I choose to have the GAL/Friend of the Court program automatically enforce my order.

\_\_\_\_\_ Guardian Ad Litem/Friend of the Court. (GAL/FOC)

I choose to enforce my own order.

\_\_\_\_\_ Registry Only (SDU)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_